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B (cont.)
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member is displaced towards the interior of said facepiece relative to said first position with said valve member still in sealing engagement with said exhaust opening, a third position in which said valve member is displaced outwardly of said facepiece relative to said first position and wherein said exhaust opening is open for allowing egress of exhaled gas, a single biasing means for biasing said valve member towards said second position, and operating means engageable by said valve member when said valve member is in said second position for opening said supply valve.

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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

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A breathing apparatus [is described, comprising] comprises a supply of breathable gas and a facepiece by which breathable gas is supplied to a wearer, the facepiece [comprising] including a supply valve for delivering gas to the interior of the facepiece, and an exhaust opening closeable by an exhaust valve for allowing the egress of exhaled gas from the facepiece[.]. [wherein the] The exhaust valve comprises a movable valve member [diaphragm] which, in a first position, closes the exhaust opening in the facepiece, [the diaphragm being movable to] in a second position is displaced toward the interior of the facepiece relative to the first position [and] while still in sealing engagement with the exhaust opening to open the supply of breathable gas, and in a third position is displaced outwardly of the facepiece relative to the first position [and in which] to open the exhaust opening [is open] to allow the egress of exhaled gas[.]. The valve member is [the diaphragm being] biased towards the second position by a single significant biasing means[.]. [and the diaphragm engaging operating means to open the supply valve when in the second position]. A sealing element is preferably interposed between the valve member and the exhaust opening.

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B (cont.)

[A sealing element is preferably interposed between the valve member and the exhaust opening.]

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of all claims in the above identified application. The claims have been amended to point out the invention more clearly, and some terminology has been changed for greater clarity. It is thought that the claims are now allowable.

With respect to the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract has been amended both to conform to the new terminology used in the claims, and to render the Abstract in one paragraph. It is thought that the objection has been overcome.

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection under Section 112 with respect to the phrase "the egress of gas". New claim 43 has been written to be clear, and to provide an antecedent for the phrase objected to.

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection under Section 112 with respect to the reference to the speech diaphragm. Attention is directed to page 8 of the specification, lines 15 et seq., where the speech diaphragm is generally defined. Further, it is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art that a speech transmission diaphragm can vibrate with sound waves to transmit those sound waves. Given the general knowledge, and the description in the specification, the teaching of the present specification is clear and precise.

Reconsideration of the objection to the drawings under Section 1.83(a) is requested. Claim 19 has been amended to recite a source of gas, rather than a reservoir. The tube 14 constitutes a source, so the claims and the drawings are now in accord.